

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

We're Going on a Leaf Hunt (picture book)

Written by Steve Metzger, Illustrated by Miki Sakamoto, Copyright 2005

Rating: 6 out of 8 stars



Met criteria = 1

Did not meet criteria = 0

Egregiously did not meet criteria = -1

What to look for	Example(s)	Rating	Explanation of rating and recommendations
Did the author tell the entire story without mentioning gender? (Just by mentioning gender we communicate that it's someone's most important quality and activate stereotypes.)	No gendered words, such as she, he, girl, boy, mommy, daddy, etc. (A person's name is not counted as a gender reference in this criterion.)	1	No gendered words are used.
Did the artist illustrate the entire story without contributing to gender stereotypes?	No pink, bows, or exaggerated eyelashes, etc. on girls. No blue, ball caps, etc. on boys, (Length of hair alone is not enough to exclude a book from this criterion. Authors often want/need to differentiate between characters. Hair is one way to do this that is less	0	The only girl character is wearing pink, and the boys are not wearing pink. Good that different skin colors are shown.

	<p><i>loaded with negative stereotyping.)</i></p>		
<p><i>Is there counterstereotyping?</i> <i>(Note: not mentioning gender counters stereotypes as it puts gender in the background.)</i></p>	<p><i>Are stereotypes challenged by showing the opposite?</i> <i>Examples are showing a boy happily cuddling a baby or a girl swinging a bat with expert skill.</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p><i>Stereotypes are countered when the girl is leading the group. She is leading the group in the forest, across stepping stones, through the meadow, and down the mountain. She is holding one boy's hand and leading the way into a scary situation (the dark, dark forest). Showing her as the central character, on the cover and the back page, also counters stereotypes.</i></p>
<p><i>Are characters with different gender representations interacting with mutual respect, skill, and admiration?</i> <i>(Or are the characters neutrally drawn so we can create the above dynamic ourselves?)</i></p>	<p><i>Are girls and boys both shown using tools while building something? Do they smile at each other? Do they treat each other like a peer (and not an/a inferior or superior)?</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p><i>One girl and two boys are on their adventure together.</i></p> <p><i>They look at each other, smile at each other, are happy together, and share a water bottle.</i></p> <p><i>When situations seem scary, they are scared together.</i></p>
<p><i>Does the girl character have agency?</i></p>	<p><i>Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through her efforts? Can you see her straining her muscles in active movement?</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p><i>She leads the way into a scary situation (the dark, dark forest). She holds one boy's hand to help him face the forest. She is shown walking on stepping stones across a river and running.</i></p> <p><i>The book would be even better if she had a turn using the oars on the rowboat, and was shown using her muscles more in climbing, lifting, etc.</i></p>

<p>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</p>		<p>1</p>	<p>Joy</p> <p><i>Equality would have been represented if the book featured an equal number of girls and boys. Too often one girl is shown with several boys in kids' stories.</i></p> <p><i>Emotional Wellness would have been represented more fully if the red-shirted boy wasn't being pushed or pulled (though gently) into the forest. That is not respecting his feelings/wishes enough. Instead the kids could have been drawn all holding hands, with scared faces, walking or tip-toeing. This would show them facing the fear in solidarity.</i></p>
<p>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</p>		<p>0</p>	<p>There is just one girl with two boys.</p> <p><i>Too often in kids' stories one girl is shown with several boys. This perpetuates the belief that boys can be different and girls are all the same (i.e. if you represent one girl, you represent them all).</i></p>
<p>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</p>		<p>1</p>	

